

John 18:32 (NASB) ³²to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

John 18:38 (KJV)

³⁸Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

JOHN 18:32

This was to fulfill what Jesus had said when he indicated the kind of death he was to die. (NRSV)

- Jesus knew all along that His would be a Roman execution, for he had predicted that he would die on a cross. (John 3:14-15)
- Capital punishment for the Jews was by stoning and for the Romans it was by crucifixion.
- Jesus had always foretold his death in terms of crucifixion, not stoning (Matthew 20:19). (*Old Test: Isa. 53:5; Psalm 22:14; Zech. 12:10*)

Isaiah 53:5 (KJV)

⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, *he was bruised* for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Psalms 22:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels.

Zechariah 12:10 (KJV)

¹⁰And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

It Had to Be a Cross

Jesus sacrificial death was an inevitable necessity for our salvation. But the very means of that death was designated by God in order to accomplish several detailed purposes of God. Among the reasons for the Crucifixion are the following:

- The Crucifixion preserved the accuracy of long-standing messianic prophecies, or typology—that none of Jesus' bones would be broken, whereas stoning broke bones (Exodus 12:46) and that piercing would occur (Zechariah 12:10).
- The Crucifixion combined the Jews and Gentiles in a conspiracy of death. The responsibility and guilt for the death of Jesus was thereby placed upon the world (Acts 2:23; 4:27).
- The Crucifixion actualized another Old Testament type, the serpent lifted on a pole as a sign of salvation (John 3:14 and Num. 21:4-9).
- The cross also represented God's commanded form of death for anyone who was under divine curse. He was to be hanged from a tree in judgment for his sin (Deuteronomy 21:23; Galatians 3:13).
- God used the cross of Jesus to work out every detail of his eternal plan to accomplish our salvation!

1 Corinthians 2:1 - 2 (ESV) ¹And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom. ²For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

1 Corinthians 15:3 - 4 (ESV) ³For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,

⁴that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

John 18:38 (KJV)

³⁸Pilate saith unto him, What is truth? And when he had said this, he went out again unto the Jews, and saith unto them, I find in him no fault *at all*.

We do not know with what attitude Pilate asked his now-famous question, "What is truth?" Sincerity or sarcasm?

God's truth has been given to us in three "editions":

1. His Word is truth (John 17:17);
2. His Son is the truth (John 14:6);
3. His Spirit is the truth (1 John 5:6).

This Truth touches every part of our inner person.

- With the mind, we *learn* God's truth through the Word.
- With the heart, we *love* God's truth, His Son.
- With the will, we yield to the Spirit and *live* God's truth day by day.

Monday Morning Moment:

*"Learn His Word
Learn His will
Learn His Ways"*

JOB 23:12 (KJV)

¹²NEITHER HAVE I GONE BACK FROM THE COMMANDMENT OF HIS LIPS; I HAVE ESTEEMED THE **WORDS OF HIS MOUTH MORE THAN MY NECESSARY FOOD.**